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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/582,554

04/19/2007

Kazuyuki Tsurumi

U 016339-5

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7590

08/28/2008

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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/582,554	Applicant(s) TSURUMI, KAZUYUKI	
	Examiner David E. Bochna	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10-11, 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, 6 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, lines 5-8, it appears that the phrase “engages with the annular ridge to retain the end part of the tube in the coupling body” appears twice

Claim 6, line 3 - should “off” be changed to “out of”?

Claim 6, last line - it is unclear what is meant by the phrase “is pressed against thereto”.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the locking legs" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

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reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EPO 1,369,634.

In regard to claim 1, EPO '634 discloses a quick-connect coupling comprising:

a coupling body 105 in which an end part 400, provided with an annular ridge 401, of a tube is inserted; and

a retainer 300 to be inserted through a window 135 into the coupling body in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the coupling body so as to engage with the annular ridge to retain the end part of the tube in the coupling body;

wherein the retainer 300 engages with the annular ridge to retain the tube in the coupling body,

complete connection verifying members 312a are formed in combination with the retainer to enable the retainer to be pressed through the window into the coupling body only after the annular ridge of the end part of the tube inserted in the coupling body has advanced beyond a position where the retainer is able to engage with the annular ridge.

In regard to claim 2, wherein the complete connection verifying members 316 are formed integrally with the retainer 300.

In regard to claim 3, wherein the coupling body has a blocking part 210 that engages with the complete connection verifying members 316 to restrain the complete connection verifying members from being pressed into the coupling body in a state where the tube is improperly inserted in the coupling body.

5. Claims 1-2, 10-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsubara '029.

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In regard to claim 1, EPO '634 discloses a quick-connect coupling comprising:

a coupling body 12 in which an end part, provided with an annular ridge 30, of a tube 30 is inserted; and

a retainer 16 to be inserted through a window 22 into the coupling body in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the coupling body so as to engage with the annular ridge 30 to retain the end part of the tube in the coupling body;

wherein the retainer 16 engages with the annular ridge 30 to retain the tube in the coupling body,

complete connection verifying members 40, 42a, 42b are formed in combination with the retainer 16 to enable the retainer 16 to be pressed through the window into the coupling body only after the annular ridge 30 of the end part of the tube inserted in the coupling body has advanced beyond a position where the retainer is able to engage with the annular ridge.

In regard to claim 2, wherein the complete connection verifying members 40, 42a, 42b are formed integrally with the retainer 16.

In regard to claim 10, wherein a slit 41a, 41b is formed between each of the locking legs 31a and the complete connection verifying member 40, 42a, 42b adjacent to the locking leg 31a, 31b.

In regard to claim 11 and 13, wherein the retainer 16 is a thin, substantially U-shaped member.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4-9 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Szabo et al., Okada et al., Rohde et al., Ohta et al. and Szabo et al. '077 all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David E. Bochna/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679